Ministry
of the
EnvironmentHon. George A. Kerr, Q.C.,
MinisterEverett Biggs,
Deputy Minister

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ABOUT THE FILM - WOMEN IN THE ENVIRONMENT

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When 1975 was designated "International Women's Year", the Ministry of the Environment decided upon a project which would commemorate Women's Year and serve as a revealing tribute to the hundreds of women employed in the environmental field.

Hence the film - "Women in the Environment".

But the movie is something more than just a special tribute to women. Perhaps we were standing too close ourselves. Originally we were looking at individual women doing specific jobs; we weren't looking at the total working force. As the movie progressed, however, we found that what we had was not a catalogue of women's jobs in the environmental field, or a film begging for some hope of reform, but a film which extends through the spectrum of environmental work. A film with a lot of important environmental information. A film useful to science and biology teachers as well as to guidance counsellors. Yet a film which appeals to the general public.

One of our major problems was choosing the women. Not because they weren't there but because there were so many articulate women with interesting stories to tell. With only a 26-minute time span to pack, we weren't able to concentrate on all the aspects we would have liked. For example, we couldn't give our secretarial people the attention they deserve.

We also wanted to show that this ministry isn't the only organization hiring women in the environmental field so we have included women from other agencies.

After September 15, 1975, copies of the film may be borrowed from the Ministry's regional offices in London, Stoney Creek, Toronto, Kingston, Sudbury and Thunder Bay or from Modern Talking Picture Service, 1875 Leslie Street, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2M6 (416-444 7347).

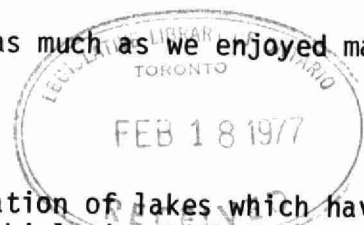
We hope you enjoy viewing "Women in the Environment" as much as we enjoyed making it.

THE WOMEN

One of today's environmental challenges is the restoration of lakes which have been damaged by excessive weed growth. In the film IVY WYLE, a biologist with Environment Ontario, discusses the ministry's experimental weed harvesting program and her duties as project leader.

"I think the main reason I grew up so interested in biology is because I've lived in different parts of the world where nature is spectacular," says Ivy. She was born in Czechoslovakia and lived on a farm in Kenya, Africa for six years. Hippopotami, lions, leopards and monkeys roamed the farm as well as the usual dogs, cats and horses. Later her family moved to Venezuela, South America where the environment was equally as exotic. Ivy holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Guelph.

And DR. CAROLE BURNHAM discusses "the classic problem of a zoning or land usage situation" where a residential area has been built too close to an industry.



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Carole is the vice-president of SNC Consultants Limited. From McGill University she received a PhD and Bachelor of Engineering degree in chemical, physical chemistry and civil engineering and took a graduate course in stream pollution control.

BEVERLEY THORPE, another one of our women in the environment, is an environmental planner for the ministry. "Hydro, traffic and railway corridors are a fact of life and necessity for the type of society we have," she says. "But in the planning of these corridors there are several things you can do to minimize their impact on the natural environment.

For her Masters Degree in Science from the University of Toronto, Beverley undertook a research project in the Northwest Territories which studied the effects of crude oil on arctic aquatic vegetation. Beverley and her husband are busy renovating an old house they have just bought and traveling to the family farm on weekends. Next year they hope to visit the Arctic for a canoe trip.

DEE BENWELL works for the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare. Her work involves hearing hazards in the working place. "The problem with noise in the work place is that it is expensive to reduce it. It's much easier to do at the design stage but today we are faced by a large number of workers in industry that are working in levels that are going to impair their hearing," says Dee.

Dee graduated in Physics from the University of Nottingham in England and joined the Rolls Royce aero engine division as a noise engineer. She emigrated to Canada in 1969 and has worked for private acoustic firms and the provincial government.

"I am a microbiologist with the ministry," ANN VAJDIC explains in the film. "I have one foot in sewage and the other in water. There is a relationship between the two since sewage passes through a sewage treatment plant into a receiving stream and becomes the drinking water of the community downstream."

Ann received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Leeds in Yorkshire, England and her Masters Degree in Microbiology from the University of Toronto. She now lives with her husband and daughter on a small farm in Bolton. They share the farm with a donkey, cats, chickens, dogs and ducks and the horses they are training for hunting and jumping.

"The work is very interesting. We analyze all sorts of samples from across Ontario including water, fish and sediment. We also get into things such as lead, cadmium and mercury analysis," says laboratory technician LIZ PASTOREK.

Liz studied chemistry for two years at the University of Toronto and is now attending Ryerson Polytechnical Institute two evenings a week to complete her degree.

"I prosecute companies for pollution," says LINDA McCAFFREY. And she does. She is one of the Ministry of the Environment's lawyers. Linda also discusses the new Environmental Assessment Act and the importance of including general day-to-day living conditions in environmental concerns.

Linda is a graduate of Ottawa University and took her law degree at Osgoode. She is married to a consulting engineer and has one child.

BARBARA CRAVEN is the secretary for the Ministry of the Environment's West Central Region director. "I've always been excited about the environment. I was quite active in a citizen's recycling committee because I think it's important. We're in a throwaway society right now. How long can we keep wasting our resources?"

Barbara has led an active life. She has worked in a variety of jobs from lab technician to bank teller to her present job which involves some public relations activity.